



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
THE DWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Public Health Office,
3, Whiting Street,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

September 1950.

WEST SUFFOLKR E P O R TThe Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Thedwastre.

of the

Secondly I beg to submit for your favourable consideration
my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, being that for the
Year ended 31st December, 1949.

I wish to assure the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

consideration given to the following and all members of the
Council.I am, Sir, Chairman, by arrangement,
for the Year

Your Obedient Servt,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON.

1949.

Medical Officer of Health.

(a) Duties - The post of Medical Officer of Health
Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
Medical Inspector, Agricultural Inspector
and Animal Inspector (Linen), appointed
1st July, 1934.

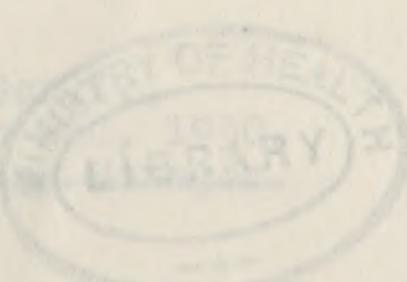
This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds in
addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health, Barnham (P.D.C.)

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(b) Duties - The Sanitary Inspector,

Donald G. Scott, M.B., B.S., A.O.S.,
Sanitary Inspector, appointed
1st July, 1934.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District
of Thedwastre in the County of West Suffolk for the
year ending 31st December, 1949.

Public Health Offices,
8, Whiting Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.

September 1950.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Thedwastre.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable consideration
my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, being that for the
year ended 31st December, 1949.

I wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the help and
consideration given to me by my colleagues and all members of the
Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health

Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
D.P.H. (Durham), Cert. Mental Deficiency
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed
1st July, 1938.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds in
addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket U.D.C.)

Mildenhall R.D.C. } Appointed 1st July, 1936
Thingoe R.D.C. }

Cosford R.D.C. Appointed February 1937

(b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector,

Oswald J. Wyatt, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Meat Cert.R.S.I., appointed June 2nd, 1930,
also Building Surveyor and Housing Manager.

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. <u>GENERAL STATISTICS.</u>	Area	34,126 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population	..	..	..	(1947) (8,199)	(1948) (8,524) 1949. 8,618
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	..	..	..	(2,608)	(2,738) 2,778
Rateable Value	..	..	..	(£27,416)	(£27,160) £27,922
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	(£114)	(£113) £119
2. <u>EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.</u>					
	Total.		Male.		Female.
<u>Live Births.</u>	(1947)	(1948)	1949.	(1947)	(1948)
Legitimate	(131)	(150)	136	(66)	(74)
Illegitimate	(19)	(11)	9	(11)	(7)
<u>Stillbirths.</u>				68	7
Legitimate	(4)	(2)	7	(2)	(2)
Illegitimate	(Nil)	(Nil)	1	(Nil)	(Nil)
<u>Deaths.</u>	(125)	(102)	118	(65)	(52)
				68	68
				(60)	(50)
				50	
<u>Birth Rate.</u> (Live births per 1000 civilian population).			The dwastre.		England & Wales.
			(1947)	(1948)	1949.
			(18.3)	(18.9)	16.8
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> (per 1000 population).					(20.5) (17.9) 16.7
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> per 1000 total (live and still) births.			(0.49)	(0.23)	0.93
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1000 resident population.					(0.50) (0.42) 0.39
<u>Corrected Death Rate</u> (Comparability Factor 0.78)					
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.</u>					
All infants per 1000 live births.			(73.3)	(18.6)	20.7
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.			(61.1)	(20.0)	22.1
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births.			(157.9)	(Nil)	Nil

3 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (1 male and 2 females legitimate). No deaths from Maternal Causes (Headings 29 & 30), 15 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough, or from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

3 deaths occurred in the first year of life (1 at 7 hours, Prematurity, 1 at 8 days, Congenital Malformation, and 1 at 7 months, Broncho-Pneumonia) and only one other (8 year old, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis) in the nonage.

At the other end of life 31 were Octogenarians and 5 were Nonagenarians before death.

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

The deaths are classified under the Headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the Sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.														
	Under 1 year.		1 & under 5.		5 & under 15.		15 & under 25.		25 & under 45.		45 & under 65.		65 & upwards.		TOTAL = Registrar- General's figures.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1 1
9. Influenza.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1 1
13. Cancer of Uterus.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
15. Cancer of Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
16. Cancer of all other sites.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	3	2	7 4
18. Intracranial vascular lesions.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	4	5	6
19. Heart Diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	30	24	33 26
20. Other circulatory diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	4 1
21. Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-
22. Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	3 1
27. Other digestive diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1 1
31. Premature Birth.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile disease.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33. Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
36. All other causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	3	7 4
Total:	Males.		1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	11	-	53	-	68
	Females.		-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	9	-	37
															50

				Male.		Female.		Total of Male & Female.		
				1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	
	Under	1 year	1 year	1	(-)	2	(3)	3	(3)	24% in 1949.
1 year &	"	5 years	"	2	-	1	-	3	3	27% in 1948.
5 years	"	15	"	-	-	1	2	1	2	76% in 1949.
15	"	25	"	-	-	-	1	-	1	73% in 1948.
25	"	45	"	3	(3)	1	(2)	4	(5)	100% in 1949.
45	"	65	"	11	(4)	9	(10)	20	(14)	100% in 1948.
65 &	65	70	"	9	(3)	6	(4)	15	(7)	76% in 1949.
over.	70	75	"	8	(7)	6	(8)	14	(15)	73% in 1948.
75	"	80	"	16	(11)	9	(8)	25	(19)	100% in 1949.
80	"	85	"	14	(13)	9	(4)	23	(17)	100% in 1948.
85	"	90	"	4	(7)	4	(4)	8	(11)	100% in 1949.
(74 in 1948)	90	95	"	2	(2)	3	(3)	5	(5)	100% in 1948.
95	"	100	"	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)	100% in 1949.
100	"	105	"	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)	100% in 1948.
				68	(52)	50	(50)	118	(102)	

	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of inhabited houses.	Registrar- General's Estimate population.	Deaths under One year.			Births.			Stillbirths.
					Legit- imate.	Illegit- imate.	Illegit- imate.	Legit- imate.	Illegit- imate.	Illegit- imate.	
1936.	£22,590	£98	2,384	7,714	103	7	Nil	99	5	3	Nil
1937.	£23,296	£98	2,418	7,688	102	2	Nil	100	5	5	Nil
1938.	£23,783	£99	2,447	7,691	79	3	Nil	112	2	5	Nil
1939.	£24,751	£103	2,409	7,724	101	7	Nil	101	6	4	1
1940.	£25,141	£103	2,551	8,851	132	3	Nil	110	4	7	Nil
1941.	£25,019	£105	2,543	9,525	113	8	Nil	125	6	5	Nil
1942.	£25,003	£104	2,544	9,052	119	4	1	146	6	7	Nil
1943.	£26,781	£111	2,539	8,713	130	4	1	133	11	2	Nil
1944.	£26,723	£111	2,545	8,342	105	4	2	155	21	3	Nil
1945.	£26,777	£111	2,548	8,150	125	8	3	132	26	3	1
TOTALS FOR DECADE.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,109	50	7	1,213	92	47	2
ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING DECADE.	£24,986	£104	2,493	8,345	Nil	5	0.7	121	9	4.7	0.2
1936 to 1945.	£27,066	£112	2,552	8,180	97	2	1	125	23	5	1
1946.	£27,416	£114	2,608	8,199	125	8	3	131	19	4	Nil
1947.	£27,160	£113	2,738	8,524	102	3	Nil	150	11	2	Nil
1948.	£27,922	£119	2,773	8,618	118	3	Nil	136	9	7	1

The Birth Rate, Death Rate, and the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population of Thedwastre for the years 1919 to 1949 are set out below and represented on the following page in graph form.

THEDWASTRE R.D.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate.</u>
1919.	8,528	20.5	13.9
1920.	8,513	23.5	10.7
1921.	8,420	22.2	10.4
1922.	8,493	21.8	12.6
1923.	8,480	18.8	14.6
1924.	8,463	16.0	11.5
1925.	8,460	17.0	12.3
1926.	8,197	15.1	12.1
1927.	8,301	14.8	14.3
1928.	8,372	12.3	13.6
1929.	8,398	16.0	11.7
1930.	8,040	12.9	11.3
1931.	8,031	13.7	15.8
1932.	8,000	13.9	13.6
1933.	7,858	13.0	16.8
1934.	7,820	12.7	11.8
1935.	7,749	13.7	11.4
1936.	7,714	13.9	13.5
1937.	7,688	14.4	13.2
1938.	7,691	14.8	10.3
1939.	7,724	14.1	12.5
1940.	8,851	12.3	14.9
1941.	9,525	13.0	11.9
1942.	9,052	16.8	13.1
1943.	8,713	16.5	14.9
1944.	8,342	21.1	12.6
1945.	8,150	19.4	15.3
1946.	8,180	18.1	11.9
1947.	8,199	18.3	15.2
1948.	8,524	18.9	12.0
1949.	8,618	16.8	13.7

It will be noted from the Graph that the population remained fairly constant from 1919 to 1925, despite the marked excess of the post-war Birth Rate over the Death Rate. This would indicate that the migration from the District equalled the excess of the births over the deaths.

From 1926 to 1939 the general and almost constant trend of the population was to diminish, although in these 14 years the Birth Rate fell below the Death Rate only three times. Due to this trend the 1919 population had been reduced by 10% by 1939. The population markedly increased during 1940 and 1941, owing to the influx of evacuees, but thereafter fell almost equally as rapidly until the end of the war despite the fact that the births greatly exceeded the deaths. This fall was, of course, due to the departure of the evacuees from the District.

Since the war the Death Rate has been average for the District, the Birth Rate remaining greater than in the inter-war period. The population, therefore, has steadily risen in the past 4 years and is $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ greater than the 1919 population.

The Thedwastre increase of $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ in its population during the past 30 years is less than one tenth of that of England and Wales during the same period. The Comparability Factor for Thedwastre (by which the Crude Death Rate must be multiplied in order to obtain the Corrected Death Rate) is 0.78. This factor being below unity indicates that in assessing the Death Rate for the District a considerable allowance has to be made for an adverse age and sex distribution.

During the complete Housing Survey of the District it was noticeable how very few infants there were in many of the villages of Thedwastre and also that the school population had diminished. Although since that time there has been an increase in the number of infants in the District, there is no doubt that a large proportion of the population of Thedwastre consists of old people.

THE DWARSH RURAL DISTRICT.

1919 to 1949.

BIRTH RATE & DEATH RATE.

Scale 1 inch = 2
Base Line = 10

Scale 1 inch = 300
Base Line = 7,600

Population

9400/22 -

BIRTH RATE
9100/20 -

8800/18 -

Population
8500/16 -

8200/14
DEATH
RATE.

7900/12 -

16

B & D 10 P. 7600

1919	21	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49	46	44	42	40	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20
20	22	24	26	28	30	32	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49	46	44	42	40	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20

Although the Registrar-General has not conducted a census in this country since 1931, the change in the age proportion of population of England and Wales from 1841 to 1947 has been estimated as follows:-

		<u>1841.</u>	<u>1947.</u>
A. Children	0 to 15 years	36.1%	21.2%
B. Persons	15 to 45 years	46.2%	44.7%
C. Persons	45 to 65 years	13.2%	23.6%
D. Persons	over 65 years	4.5%	10.5%

Group B from which, in the main, active physical workers are drawn has slightly diminished, being now about two persons in each five of the population.

Group C, which, in the main, furnishes the administrative has almost doubled - they are the future Group D, which is, therefore, going to increase.

Group D representing with notable exceptions, persons beyond the working years, has more than doubled.

Group A, children not yet commenced work, has diminished by more than 40%. It is apparent that it will be from this Group that the future Group B will be derived - hence Group B, active physical workers, will be fewer in number.

Even if a future war does not wastefully diminish the young and vigorous the time is rapidly approaching when the active physical workers of the Country will number much less than two persons in five.

The National Census, to be taken in 1951, will, inter alia, indicate whether the population of Thedwastre, having merely maintained its number during the past 30 years, has been ageing. Such indication may modify present satisfaction at the high average age attained by persons in this District, as indicated in the second table on page 3, but will enhance the value of the post-war increase in the Birth Rate of the District.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, under the directorship of Dr. R. M. Fry, provides an excellent bacteriological service and an abundance of advice and enthusiasm.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. } These services are supplied by
(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. } the County Council.

(d) HOSPITALS. The hospitals used by Thedwastre residents are indicated by the following information with regard to live births and deaths.

Of the 136 Live Births, 66 took place at the resident's home in Thedwastre - the remaining 70 were almost all hospital births and the great majority occurred at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, or the West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

79 of the 118 deaths of Thedwastre Residents in 1949 occurred at their own homes in Thedwastre. Of the remaining 39 there were 35 deaths in hospital as under:-

- 16 West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 11 St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 2 St. Audry's Hospital, Melton.
- 2 Walnutree Hospital, Sudbury.
- 1 White Lodge Hospital, Newmarket.
- 1 Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- 1 Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- 1 Risbridge Home, Kedington.

Prior to the war there were three Public Assistance Hospitals in the County - at Bury St. Edmunds, Sudbury and Newmarket - but on the outbreak of war the White Lodge Hospital at Newmarket ceased to receive the chronic sick and aged persons. This led to a strain on the available beds at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, and at Walnutree Hospital, Sudbury.

The National Health Service Act now requires the children of old persons sent to hospitals to make no contribution towards the cost of their maintenance. These adult children, even when the acute illness is passed, appear not to want their aged parent, or parent-in-law, back home. The long or permanent stay which results means, in addition to the feeling of "not wanted" created in the old folks, that the turnover of the beds is less than before, this together with the fact that the number of the beds has been reduced is causing great difficulty in finding accommodation for urgent chronic cases. The time for the young and middle aged to commence to make satisfactory arrangements for their old age is now, for the provisions which they make for old people now are likely to be the provisions available to them when they reach old age - and many more than ever before are surviving to senility. Shortage of beds for Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases has also been manifest.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. The Public Inquiry into the Proposed Comprehensive Water Scheme, it will be recalled, was held in November 1947. At that Inquiry it was stated that a survey of the District had shown:-

- 17% Houses had a well or bore, or water from a well or bore conducted, within the house
- 54% Houses had a well within 200 feet of the house
- 29% Houses sought their water supply from a distance of more than 200 feet.

During 1948 and the beginning of 1949 the boreholes of the Comprehensive Scheme were duplicated and detailed surveys and final plans were being prepared for Stage One of the Scheme. Large orders for pipes and fittings were placed in advance of the letting of contracts to avoid delay upon tenders being accepted. Towards the end of 1949 pipes were beginning to arrive.

After five years planning and preparing the active evidence of progress is appearing.

This Comprehensive Water Scheme is a most urgent need, for as has been recorded in previous reports, the only piped water supply in the whole of the District is a private one belonging to Capt. Walmsley which supplies a total of 14 houses in the parish of Gedding.

The urgency of this need was impressed during 1949 when the dry summer which followed the very mild winter allowed insufficient replenishment of the shallow wells of the District. As a result shortage of water was experienced in 13 of our 20 parishes to such an extent that it became necessary for the Council to undertake the cartage of water in these parishes. This, of course, was a costly matter and despite the cost there is no doubt that the villagers had a trying experience in obtaining and carrying their daily requirements from the tanks provided. At present water is being delivered in the parishes of Walsham-le-Willows, Elmswell, Badwell Ash, Thurston and Norton.

The absence of the Comprehensive Water Scheme has added to the difficulties in the provision of Council houses - the following being the arrangements adopted to provide water for new Council houses:-

At Tostock the water is derived from the bore sunk before the war, the distance is not unreasonable.

At Woolpit the Swedish Houses are supplied from a private bore up to 200 yards distant.

At Drinkstone, the pre-war well having proved inadequate, water is carted from the Elmswell Bacon Factory bores to fill static tanks.

At Felsham, Rattlesden, Great Ashfield, Hinderclay, Hessett and Beyton the new Council houses are supplied from new bored wells.

At Gedding from Capt. Walmsley's private supply.

At Badwell Ash from existing wells.

At Elmswell, Norton, Wattisfield & Walsham-le-Willows tenants walk a distance of up to 400 yards to the existing wells.

At Rickinghall a well was sunk as a temporary measure until pipes are connected to the Hartismere R.D.C. mains.

8 satisfactory bacteriological reports were obtained on samples taken from the supplies for the new Council houses at Beyton (2 samples), Hessett and Hinderclay, from Woolpit School, a private house (2 samples) and a farm.

15 unsatisfactory reports were received on seven private houses (9 samples) and four farms (6 samples).

Advice and warning notices were given when necessary.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. In the absence of piped water supplies village drainage and sewage schemes have not yet been introduced in the District.

It is estimated that there are over 400 cesspools within Thedwastre.

The new Council houses have their sink and bath drainage to septic tanks. In the absence of soil they function only with nuisance despite being emptied frequently, utilising the services of a neighbouring authority.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The dry summer restricted the flow of many streams, in some cases leaving only stagnant pools. This aggravated the nuisance caused by the discharge of household drains into the streams in such places as Walsham-le-Willows, Hessett and Rattlesden.

The Council employed a man continuously during the year cleaning out the streams and ditches.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Almost all houses in the District are provided with pail closets.

The Council have not introduced a night soil collection in any part of the District. Whilst in the main, for the disposal of night soil, houses might be stated to be adequately provided with gardens, there are, nevertheless, an appreciable number without such provision. This necessitates, as for example in the parish of Woolpit, occupiers carrying their closet pails through the streets to allotments, or other sites, for distances up to a quarter of a mile. This illustrates the urgency for the introduction of the Comprehensive Water Scheme and the need to prepare, and have approved, sewage disposal schemes in the built-up areas.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The Council continued the removal of household refuse in open lorries by contractors until the end of October when the Redford Refuse Collection Vehicle was delivered. 2,500 dustbins were purchased and delivered to householders - a rent of 5/- per year being charged. A small number of householders preferred to purchase the bins outright for the sum of £1. 1. 0. Steps are being taken to ensure that each house has a bin.

Removal takes place every four weeks and is greatly appreciated by the Rate Payers.

The refuse is deposited at Elmswell, Wattisfield, Thurston and Badwell Ash and covered with soil.

Regular visits are made by the Rodent Operator and action taken to exterminate the rats.

Cost of quarterly removals by Contractors and the number of loads until the end of September was:-

	<u>No. of Loads.</u>	<u>Cost.</u>
Tostock.	4	£5. 12. 0.
Woolpit.	20	22. 8. 0.
Beyton.	8	11. 4. 0.
Hessett.	6½	10. 3. 0.
Rickinghall.	6	13. 0. 0.
Hinderclay.	4	12. 5. 0.
Wattisfield.	7½	13. 0. 0.
Walsham-le-Willows.	14½	25. 10. 0.
Great Ashfield.	4	9. 10. 0.
Stowlangtoft, Langham and Hunston.	5	10. 10. 0.
Thurston.	12	18. 0. 0.
Felsham and Gedding.	21	34. 7. 6.
Rattlesden.	21	30. 12. 6.
Drinkstone.	14	26. 5. 0.
Norton.	18	30. 0. 0.
Badwell Ash.	4	10. 0. 0.
Elmswell.	19½	27. 0. 0.
	<u>189</u>	<u>£309. 7. 0.</u>

From 1st October to 31st December refuse was removed monthly by the Council's own employees and vehicle, the number of loads being 192½ and the cost (exclusive of loan charges and deterioration) was £324. 9. 0.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Since July 1st, 1946, in view of the then prevailing shortage of Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Wyatt has worked single-handed, whereas prior to that date he was assisted by an Additional Sanitary Inspector.

In Thedwastre the work of a Sanitary Inspector is considerably augmented by the meat inspection at the St. Edmundsbury Co-operative Bacon Factory, where, as recorded later in this report, 77,842 pigs were inspected during 1949. Such inspections make it quite impossible for any one man to carry out the work which the public now require that Sanitary Inspectors should undertake.

It is false economy to allow the workingclass dwellings in the District to get to that stage where they require replacement at the part cost of the taxpayer and ratepayer, because of lack of inspection.

There is much work to be done in connection with the full utilisation of the Comprehensive Water Scheme and Sewage Disposal Schemes when they become available.

The introduction of the Refuse Disposal Scheme by direct labour has given Mr. Wyatt another responsibility.

It is hoped that the Council will try (and be more successful than they were when last they advertised) to obtain an Additional Sanitary Inspector during 1950.

Mr. Wyatt has supplied the following tabular statement which indicates his work of Sanitary Inspection during 1949:-

Dwelling Houses, Routine Inspections	..	..	..	..	117
Bacon Factory	..	..	..	..	253
Butchers Premises	..	..	..	..	69
Food Shops and Bakchouses	..	..	..	..	79
Factories	..	..	..	..	27
Shops	..	..	..	..	45
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	79
Dairies	..	..	..	..	79
School Inspections	..	..	..	..	25
Interviews	..	..	..	..	43
Complaints	..	..	..	..	15
Council Houses	..	..	..	..	27
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	93
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	75
Tents, Vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	29
Visits, Building Licences	..	..	..	..	110
				Total:	1,165

Factory Act, 1937. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	37	253	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	67	6	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total:	55	320	6	Nil

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions.
(Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied To H.M. Inspector	Referred	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total:	14	14	Nil	Nil	Nil

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 45 inspections relating to the provisions of the Shop Act, 1934, were made. From these inspections, which pay regard to cleanliness and to the provision of suitable and sufficient heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation, no action was required in any case.

(v) CAMPING SITES. There are four licensed sites within the District on which there are six caravans, housing approximately 12 persons. Visits were paid at frequent intervals to these sites during the year and they were found to be maintained in good condition.

An unlicensed site at Woolpit occupied early in the year was cleared, but in August further caravans arrived and created nuisance. Proceedings under the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947, were taken and the caravans have since been removed.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No smoke nuisance was either observed or reported.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS. There are no swimming baths in the District. The swimming baths at Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket are available at reasonable distance to many of our inhabitants.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No case of bed bug infestation was either reported or discovered during 1949.

It is worthy of note that all my reports (which extend from 1938) have shown the same satisfactory absence from the District of bed bugs.

(ix) RODENT CONTROL. The services of the Rodent Operator were retained for all premises throughout the District. Free treatment was given to houses but a charge of 5/- per hour made for business premises.

Number of Premises Visited	..	..	4,336
Number of Premises Infested	..	..	261
Number of Premises Baited	..	..	261
Number of Rats' Bodies picked up	..	..	866
Estimated Number of Rats Destroyed		..	3,464

4. SCHOOLS. 25 visits were made to inspect washing and sanitary facilities at schools. Much improvement in these facilities will be possible when the Comprehensive Water Scheme and Sewage Disposal Schemes begin.

SECTION D.
HOUSING

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	165
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	275
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	8
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	72
2. <u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.</u>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	69
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
(a) <u>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b) <u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(c) <u>Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders were made	8
(b) Undertakings accepted not to relet for human habitation.	Nil
(c) Undertaking cancelled upon completion of work.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil
(d) <u>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders.	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.	Nil
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.	Nil
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	11
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	11
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	58
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil

Classified List of Housing Defects and Nuisances
Abated during the Year.

Now Drains Tested and Passed	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Roofs Repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Chimneys repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Dampness	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Fireplaces repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Closets repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Wash Coppers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Stairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Paving	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gutters	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Doors	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dirty House	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ditches	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The above does not include repairs carried out to the Council Houses and houses requisitioned under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

Civil Building Licences Issued.

Privately owned Working class houses (repairs)	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Private Residences	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erection of Ex-Army Hut	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Reconditioning of Category Five Cottages	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
New Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Conversion to Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

The housing needs of the District are still great and extremely urgent. The Council is not allowed to establish the speed at which this position is to be remedied, being controlled, as to number of houses which may be built, by the allocation which the Ministry of Health sanctions.

During 1949 a further 60 Council Houses were completed, making 162 post-war and a further 7 private houses were also completed, making 38 post-war. Twenty Council Houses were in course of erection at the end of the year.

A definite proportion of dwellings suitable for old persons would be a welcome introduction into the Council's Housing Programme and might possibly prove the most economic and speedy means of relieving the housing problems of many families.

The duty of allocating Council Houses correctly requires great wisdom. When married couples with children are proclaiming their urgent need for accommodation, the Council, especially as they continue to build three-bedroomed houses, are subjected to much criticism if new Council Houses are let to newly weds, or those about to marry.

Reference has already been made in this report to the ageing of the population and to the possibility of the number of active physical workers being reduced. The Registrar General's statistics for 1949 show a decrease of 47,518 marriages for the country as compared with 1948. The future wellbeing of the County and the District suggests that a definite proportion of new Council Houses should be allocated to newly weds, thus avoiding the limitation in family caused by postponement of marriage.

The Thedwastre Council's record with regard to the provision of houses for the workingclass people of the District is one in which the Council might well take justifiable pride. Prior to Government grants being allocated towards Council Houses the Thedwastre Council undertook the building of Council Houses. By the end of 1949 Council Houses of the District totalled 497 and consisted of 331 built pre-war, 4 built under the War-time Emergency Programme and 162 built post-war. These 497 Council Houses are situated in parishes as indicated in the following table:-

Parish.	HOUSES Total in Parish.	C O U N C I L H O U S E S .				% of Council Houses.
		Total.	Pre-war.	War-time Emergency Programme.	Post- War.	
Badwell Ash.	120	23	19	-	4	19%
Beyton,	127	30	20	-	10	24%
Drinkstone.	123	20	10	2	8	15%
Elmswell.	518	75	55	-	20	24%
Felsham.	103	22	10	-	12	21%
Gedding.	47	16	10	-	6	34%
Great Ashfield.	108	26	15	2	8	24%
Hessett.	100	14	12	-	2	14%
Hinderclay.	65	11	7	-	4	17%
Hunston.	31	-	-	-	-	Nil
Langham.	39	-	-	-	-	Nil
Norton.	232	55	33	-	22	15%
Rattlesden.	257	28	18	-	10	12%
Rickinghall.	97	14	2	-	12	14%
Stowlangtoft.	52	6	6	-	-	12%
Thurston.	221	29	17	-	12	13%
Tostock.	98	18	14	-	4	18%
Walsham-le-Willows.	266	44	38	-	6	17%
Wattisfield.	127	28	18	-	10	22%
Woolpit.	257	38	26	-	12	15%
Total:	2,778	497	331	4	162	18%

SECTION E.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, and as and from that date the Council ceased to be the Authority concerned with the registration of cowsheds, cowkeepers, and the supervision of the production of milk. This duty has now passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, the Council ceased to be responsible for the supervision of the Pasteurisation of milk, this duty now being undertaken by the County Council.

Our duty is now restricted to milk in the course of distribution.

At the time of the transference of the functions 116 cowkeepers and retail purveyors were on the register, and 158 visits had been paid to cowsheds and dairies.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The St. Edmundsbury Co-operative Bacon Factory at Elmswell is the only licensed slaughterhouse regularly in use within the District. During the year 253 visits were made and the 77,842 pigs slaughtered were all inspected. The meat condemned and cause of condemnation is indicated as follows:-

Number of pigs killed	77,842
Number of pigs inspected	77,842

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	80
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3,124
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	4.1%

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	104
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,691
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	2.3%

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS BEING UNSOUND OR OTHERWISE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Grape Fruit	4 tins	Grapes	1 tin
Beef Loaf	13 "	Sardines	1 "
Ideal Milk	97 "	Heinz Beans in Tomato	2 tins
Pilchards	5 "	Evaporated Milk	19 "
Peach Jam	6 "	Nestles Milk	6 "
Grade I. Salmon	2 "	Dried Egg	2 "
Brisling	2 "	Processed Peas	7 "
Cheese	20 boxes	Treacle Puddings	2 "
Orange Juice	12 tins	Salad Cream	1 jar
Veal & Ham Loaf	15 "	Processed Cheese	3 boxes
Pickled Onions	25 "	Grape Fruit & Orange Marmalade	7 tins
Skimmed Milk	33 "	Cherries	2 "
Peaches	3 "	Ox Tongue	2 "

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC. No change.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION. In October 1949 intimation was received from the Medical Officer of Health of a London Borough that cases of food poisoning occurring in his District were attributable to the consumption of meals prepared from "Liquid Fresh Egg" produced in this District.

"Liquid fresh egg" consists of broken and cracked eggs and the unfertilized incubated eggs which are sent to the Egg Grading and Packing Stations. They possibly number 5% of the total "fresh" eggs arriving at the Packing Stations.

The co-operation of the firm concerned was sought and obtained to reach and maintain the highest degree of hygienic preparation possible. The Council, however, realising that this was a matter of more than local import and of principle, passed the following resolution:-

"The Thedwastre Council being satisfied that "liquid fresh egg", which consists of broken and cracked eggs, and also unfertilized eggs, even with the most meticulous handling and storage, is a foodstuff liable to cause Food Poisoning, urges the Minister of Health to take steps to ensure that such "liquid fresh egg" is pasteurised before being sold for consumption."

The Council were encouraged to make this suggestion as a necessary and practicable measure by the bacteriological findings and experiments of Drs. Fry and McCoy of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge, who gave prompt and comprehensive co-operation.

The attention of the Ministry of Food was drawn to the problem and it is learned that a general improvement in production of this product has been sought and obtained throughout the country.

Experiments are continuing to arrive at the most suitable Pasteurisation plant, as an example of which may be quoted the results of Gracey Brothers, in co-operation with workers in the U.S.A. and Dr. Brooks of the Cambridge Low Temperature Research Station. Bacteriological tests made by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture, during February, March and April, 1950, show that the holding of "liquid fresh egg" at a temperature of 142.F, for a minimum of three minutes by the Gracey Brothers' plant, gave a percentage kill of organisms exceeding 99% without adversely affecting the utility of the product. (vide Food Manufacture July 1950, Page 283).

(c) NUTRITION. Since the war many articles of diet have been removed from rationing and of those which still remain rationed many have had the ration increased. The effects of shortage have been removed. Any difficulty which may now be experienced occurs only in those who are insufficiently active, physically or mentally, to obtain their supplies and prepare and cook them, or who have no assistance so to do.

The old people of the District, especially in those parishes in which the Ministry of Food carried out an investigation in January and February 1948, have had many Empire friends send them much appreciated gift food parcels. The present prosperity which has come to the Wool Trade of Australia has prompted some of these good friends to increase the number of gift food parcels which they propose to send for the old people. This action shows indeed a very kindly and generous thought.

{f) SHELL-FISH. (Mulluscan) } No change.
{g) WATER-CRESS. }

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were but 22 cases, enumerated below, of infectious disease (other than Tuberculosis) notified and confirmed during 1949. This was, therefore, an exceptionally satisfactory year.

4 Scarlet Fever, Male 2 yrs	Females, 6, 8, 27 yrs.
6 Whooping Cough, Males 1, 4, 5, 6 yrs.	" 6 & 8 yrs.
8 Measles, Males, 2, 3, 5, 9 yrs.	" 4, 4, 6, 9 yrs.
1 Pneumonia, Male 47 yrs.	
2 Infective Hepatitis	" 1 & 9 yrs.
1 Food Poisoning	Female, 64 yrs.

T U B E R C U L O S I S. New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Cases remaining on the Register at 31st December

1949. 1948.

24 Pulmonary (9 Males, 15 Females)	23 (10 Males, 13 Females)
10 Non " (4 Males, 6 Females)	10 (5 Males, 5 Females)

Total: 34 33

New cases of Tuberculosis in 1949 were:-

6 Pulmonary (Males 20, 50 yrs. (Females 4, 35, 43, 44 yrs.)	}
1 Non- " (Female 7 yrs.)	

Two deaths in 1949 were attributed to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis - a male aged 48 yrs. and a female aged 8 yrs.

